

RECOGNIZING THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS' 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Railroad Commission of Texas on its 130th anniversary.

Established in 1891 by the Texas Constitution, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) was created for the purpose preventing discrimination in railroad charges and establishing reasonable tariffs. As the first regulatory agency created in the State of Texas, their primary responsibility included covering rates and operations of railroads, terminals, wharves and express companies.

In 1917, the Texas Legislature expanded the Commission's authority after declaring pipelines to be common carriers, thereby providing the agency the ability to administer conservation laws related to oil and gas. In March 1919, their jurisdiction would once again increase to include pipeline safety as well as the safety of alternative fuels, natural gas utilities, and the surface mining of coal and uranium.

In the decades which would follow, the RRC's authority evolved to meet the needs of our rapidly growing state. While its rail functions have since been transferred to the Texas Department of Transportation, the Commission's oversight has extended to include not only oil and gas exploration and production, but also pipeline transporters, the natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline industry, natural gas utilities, the LP-gas industry, and coal and uranium surface mining operations.

In recent years, the Commission has modernized technology for increased efficiency and has expanded transparency by providing the public with needed tools to access agency information. Further, the dedicated efforts of its professionals have contributed to the streamlining of operations while promoting increased innovation and energy independence.

For over 130 years the Railroad Commission of Texas has maintained a unified and focused mission of protecting the public, environment, and economy of Texas. As the oil and gas industry continues to be an essential component of Texas' success story, I congratulate the Railroad Commission of Texas and its employees on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued success as they continue to protect the state's natural resources, environment, and public safety.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR COLA FOR SENIORS ACT OF 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2021, which would require using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) when calculating cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for federal retirement programs. The proposed index would adjust the benefits pro-

grams such as Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, civil service retirement, military retirement, veterans' pensions and compensations, and other retirement programs.

Current law uses the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which measures costs solely of working individuals—unlike most Social Security beneficiaries. Using CPI-W does not adequately consider the rising expenditures of retirement, such as housing and healthcare costs. This inadequate accounting amounts to an effective decrease in benefits for those who rely on these federal programs. The proposed change will lead to increased COLAs, ensuring that seniors are able to keep up with the rising costs of their real-world expenses.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representatives PINGREE (D-ME), BEATTY (D-OH), FITZPATRICK (R-PA), STRICKLAND (D-WA), MOULTON (D-MA), BOYLE (D-PA), SABLAN (D-MP), NAPOLITANO (D-CA), DEUTCH (D-FL), MCNERNEY (D-CA), MCCOLLUM (D-MN), KILMER (D-WA), BROWN (D-MD), POCAN (D-WI), KUSTER (D-NH), SPEIER (D-CA), ESHOO (D-CA), MOORE (D-WI), and COHEN (D-TN), SIRES (D-NJ), KAPTUR (D-OH), LIEU (D-CA), WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL) for their support as original cosponsors. I look forward to working with the Chairpersons of the Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and Armed Services Committees to ensure this critical piece of legislation becomes law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I missed votes due to circumstances beyond my control.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 197.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the opening of William Beaumont Army Medical Center in Fort Bliss, Texas.

The William Beaumont Army Medical Center first opened in July 1, 1921 and has since become a major medical asset for the U.S. Army—serving the needs of countless soldiers, veterans, military families, and El Paso residents. Whether through assisting victims of the August 3rd, 2019 domestic terrorist shooting or working day and night during the COVID-19 pandemic, the medical center has always helped our community and continues to be an invaluable resource for El Pasoans.

As the United States Army prepares to open one of the most advanced medical facilities in the country, the El Paso community is thankful for the Army's support and wishes William

Beaumont Army Medical Center the best of luck as it begins its years of service.

Again, I am pleased to recognize the opening of William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on June 29, 2021, during debate on H.R. 3005, To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to replace the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the United States Capitol with a bust of Thurgood Marshall to be obtained by the Joint Committee on the Library and to remove certain statues from areas of the United States Capitol which are accessible to the public, to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol, and for other purposes, one of my colleagues in the majority argued that she held no responsibility for delays in approving North Carolina's request to replace the Charles Aycock statue, due to the Joint Committee on the Library (JCL) only formally organizing on June 23 for the 117th Congress.

However, this argument left out important context about the series of events related to the JCL this year. As my colleague knows, Democrats have controlled both the House and the Senate since January and at any time could have passed their respective resolutions appointing members to the JCL, allowing it to organize. But it took until April 16 and May 26 for the House and Senate to pass their respective resolutions. Even with those delays, the committee could still have been organized at any point after May 26. Yet it still took nearly a month, until June 23, for the committee to formally organize. Throughout this entire Congress, the Democrats have been in the driver seat of the JCL, despite my colleague's representation otherwise.

It is clear that Democrats have needlessly delayed the work of the JCL. Therefore, as I said in my remarks, if Democrats were truly concerned about the presence of offensive statues in the U.S. Capitol, they might start by being quicker to act on the business of the Joint Committee on the Library.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER ALABAMA CONGRESSMAN SONNY CALLAHAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the memory of one of my closest friends, former Congressman H.L. "Sonny" Callahan, the gentleman from the great state of Alabama, who peacefully passed away on June 25, 2021. Sonny and I became quick friends upon his arrival to Washington in 1985. His humor and zeal for practical jokes were as endearing on Capitol Hill as his ability to forge alliances across the aisle to create effective policy and legislation for the American people.